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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. 

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Gorki Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 17 Nov. 1949

SUBJECT Airframe Plant No. 21 in Gorki

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1. Location of GORKI: (43°10'E/56°15'N).
2. Designation: Aircraft Plant No 21 (according to Soviet statements).
3. Observed aircraft types:

a. Conventional fighter (see Annex 1): The weapons of these craft were adjusted at the target range of the plant. Many planes of this type had been observed up to February 1949 but later they were seldom seen. They produced a noise similar to that of a 20-mm antiaircraft gun.

b. Jet fighter (see Annex 2): These fighters have been flight-tested there since February 1949. There were about 20 take-offs and landings per day. Accidents were not observed. Description of this craft: Very slim fuselage, 3.5 feet in diameter at the most, length about 26.5 feet (a fuselage was seen from a distance of about 1,000 feet). Air intake at nose almost as large as diameter of fuselage, the exact shape of the fuselage was not recalled. Glazed cockpit, flat and oblong. At the landing of one of these planes two heads were allegedly seen in it. This observation seemed strange as accommodations for two pilots were not available because of the room required for the air supply system of the power plant.  believed that the pilot flew in a prone position. Landing gear: No details available but a nose wheel was definitely remembered. It was not observed how this nose wheel was retracted. Wings with pronounced sweepback and dihedral. No details available on form of wing tips; wing span considerably smaller than that of conventional fighters. Tail assembly: Elevator assembly strikingly high (see Annex). The form of the rudder assembly was not remembered; however, in no case was it rounded off as it is in conventional fighters. Markings were not observed; the aircraft had a silver sheen.

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Comment:

a. The features of the conventional fighter (see Annex 1) would indicate a Yak type. Because of contradictory statements on the characteristics, its definite identification is not possible.

b. The pronounced sweepback and the very flat canopy of the jet fighter (Annex 2) is in accordance with almost all reports on GORKI dating from 1948. The statement that two heads were seen in this aircraft is attributed to an error of observation; probably the head cushion of the pilot's seat was mistaken for a head. The assumed prone position of the pilot is out of the question and does not agree with the observation of a head in the cockpit. From a comparison with previous information dating from the spring of 1948 it is assumed that the described jet plane was a sweepback type, presumably a Lavochkin design, displayed for the first time at the July 1948 Air Show.

2 Annexes: Conventional fighter Observed in GORKI.  
Jet fighter Observed in GORKI.

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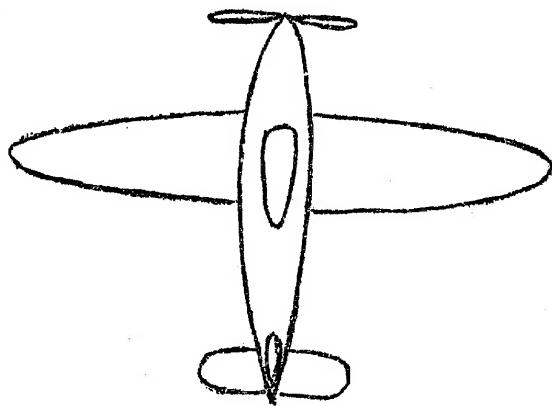
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ATTACHMENT I

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Conventional Fighter Observed in Gorki



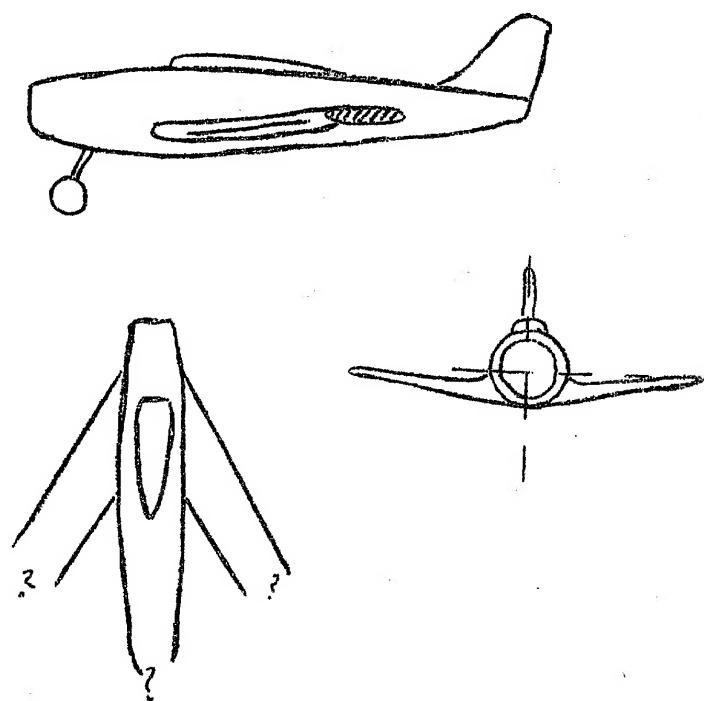
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ATTACHMENT II

Jet Fighter Observed in Gorki



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